

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A method for attaching a ligand to a solid phase comprising:

(i) contacting an amine group on the surface of said solid phase with a molecule which reacts with said amine group, said molecule containing a protected or unprotected sulfhydryl group, and

(ii) reacting a conjugate of said ligand and a linker, wherein said linker comprises a maleimide group or sulfhydryl group ~~or group~~ with said molecule, to attach said ligand to said solid phase.

Claim 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said solid phase is a magnetic bead.

Claim 3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said ligand is an antibiotic.

Claim 4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said antibiotic is Rapamycin or Tacrolimus (FK-506).

Claim 5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said molecule is N-succinimidyl-S-acetyl thioacetate.

Claim 6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said linker is p-maleimidophenyl isocyanate.

Claim 7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said molecule is 2-iminothiolane-HCl.

Claim 8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said molecule reacts with said amine group in an acylation reaction.

Claim 9. (Original) A solid phase with a ligand attached thereto, prepared in accordance with the method of claim 1.